

After LM: NASA lunar lander concepts beyond Apollo /

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Monografía

There is a reason why the Apollo LMs, and many of the subsequent lunar lander designs featured in this book, look the way they do - their shape and form is a response to the simple physics that governs the tasks they are asked to perform. Much of the lunar lander "design space" is determined by physics. Large tanks of propellant surrounded by structure, an attenuation system for landing, and a pressurized volume for crew habitation all directly address the physics of lander design. Those physics and engineering realities mean that the next lunar lander will most likely look like the big brother of the Apollo LM because the physics of lunar landing is unchanged, and technology has only improved marginally since Apollo. Not only did Apollo's designers understand the physics of the problem perfectly, they were very smart, especially given that they were inventing much of the technology for the first time. The Apollo LM is a logical starting point for this collection; however, the endpoint is a less exact point in time. The end-point of the concepts contained in this human lunar lander concept catalog is the final design of Altair in 2010

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Título: After LM NASA lunar lander concepts beyond Apollo John F. Connolly, editor

Editorial: Washington, DC National Aeronautics and Space Administration 2020

Descripción física: 1 online resource (xii, 260 pages) color illustrations

Variantes del título: After lunar module NASA lunar lander concepts beyond Apollo

Mención de serie: NASA SP 2020-220338 Nota general: Shipping list no.: 2020-0132-P

Contenido: Introduction -- Apollo lunar modules -- Post-Apollo; Space exploration initiative -- Faster, better, cheaper -- Decadal planning team -- Return to exploration; Concept exploration and refinement landers -- Exploration system architecture study -- Lunar surface access module pre-project; Lunar lander preparatory study -- Lunar lander preparatory study phase 2 -- Lunar architecture team phase I and phase II -- Lunar lander project office: Altair; Altair lander design analysis cycle-1 -- Lander design analysis cycle-2 -- 2008 contractor broad agency announcement studies -- Lander design analysis cycle-4 -- Post-landing checklist -- Appendices

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Nota de acción: digitized 2025. HathiTrust Digital Library committed to preserve pda MiAaHDL

ISBN: 9780578622729 hardcover) 0578622726 hardcover)

Materia: Space flight to the moon Space vehicles- Landing- Moon Lunar excursion module Government publications- United States Vol vers la Lune Véhicules spatiaux- Atterrissage- Lune Module lunaire Publications officielles- États-Unis Exploration of outer space. Lunar excursion module. Space flight to the moon. Space vehicles- Landing.

Materia Geográfica: Outer space- Exploration Espace extra-atmosphérique- Exploration Moon. Outer space.

Autores: Connolly, John F. (NASA), editor

Entidades: United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration issuing body

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Original (DLC) 2019467616 (OCoLC)1140968793

Punto acceso adicional serie-Título: NASA SP (Series) 2020-220338

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